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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 8, 2003**

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### **CONSPIRACY LEADER SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on August 4, 2003, Genevieve Marie Castaneda,(D.O.B., 10/17/49); a resident of Phoenix, Arizona,, was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release by United States District Judge Susan R. Bolton, in Phoenix, Arizona. Castaneda was also ordered to pay \$83,049.09 restitution to the State of Arizona for losses caused by her leading a conspiracy to defraud the Women, Children and Infant (WIC) Nutrition Program. Judge Bolton specifically found that Castaneda was the leader of a group of people who regularly obtained through fraudulent means, food products offered through the WIC nutrition supplement program of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Castaneda previously had entered a plea of guilty to the charge. Castenada admitted that while she was employed as a certified nutrition worker for the Maricopa County Health Department, she conspired with her accomplices from at least March 2002 to February 2003 to fraudulently obtain food items, to include Enfamil baby formula provided from the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC), administered by the United States Department of Agriculture through the Maricopa County Department of

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Public Health. Castaneda acknowledged that she prepared fraudulent applications and WIC checks for numerous fictitious persons and then she and her accomplices would assume the identity of those fictitious persons to obtain the Enfamil product from local grocery stores. The Enfamil was then re-sold by another accomplice, and all of the participants in the scheme then shared in the proceeds from the Enfamil resales.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by Special Agents of the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and supervisory personnel from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-0266-01-PHX-SRB  
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